

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the present application in view of the foregoing changes to the specification and claims.

Status of the Claims

In the present Amendment, claims 1-15 have been canceled, and new claims 16-20 have been added. Thus, claims 16-21 are pending in the present application.

No new matter has been added by way of the new claims, because each new claim is supported by the present specification and originally filed claims. Specifically, support for claims 16-18 can be found in original claims 1-4 (which are canceled herein) as well as in the present specification at least at page 9, lines 7-11 and lines 17-21, page 10, lines 3-8, page 12, lines 16-20, page 53, lines 15+ and page 56, lines 15+. Support for claim 19 can be found in original claim 7 as well as the paragraph bridging pages 12-13 of the specification. Support for claim 20 can be found in original claim 10 and page 13, lines 7-9 of the present specification. Support for claim 21 can be found in the present specification at least at page 52, lines 4-6 and page 54, lines 11-17. Thus, no new matter has been added.

The amendment to the Abstract is minor in character and also does not add new matter.

Based upon the above considerations, entry of the present amendments is respectfully requested.

In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Objection to Abstract

The Abstract of Applicants' specification is objected to as stated in paragraph 1, page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner to the corrections to the Abstract as shown herein. The amended Abstract is now less than 150 words. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-4 stand objected to due to informalities (see paragraph 2, pages 2-3 of the Office Action). Also, claims 5-15 stand objected under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) due to improper multiple dependencies. Applicants respectfully traverse both objections.

Applicants initially note that the disputed claims have been canceled herein. Thus, these rejections are rendered moot. Further, the new claims presented herein do not have brackets and conform with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c). Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-4 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 13-14 and 17-19 of copending Application No. 11/002,938.

Applicants have filed concurrently herewith a Terminal Disclaimer, thereby rendering this rejection moot and/or overcoming the rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hakuta '251 (WO 00/55251).

Also, claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hakuta '407 (WO 01/98407).

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

Applicants initially note that the disputed claims have been canceled herein. Thus, these rejections are rendered moot.

Further, the newly added claims as presented herein are directed to methods of making, wherein the cited references fail to disclose such instantly claimed methods. Specifically, each of U.S. Patent No. 6,846,315 (hereinafter "Hakuta '315"), which corresponds to Hakuta '251, and U.S. Patent No. 6,743,862 (hereinafter "Hakuta '862"), which corresponds to Hakuta '407, fail to disclose a method for making molded products, including a sealing or gasket material for fuel cell seals, top cover gaskets for hard disk drivers and cable connector seals, as instantly claimed. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references discloses all features of the present invention.

Because “a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference,” each of the cited Hakuta ‘251 and Hakuta ‘407 references cannot be a basis for a rejection under § 102(b). *See Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Thus, because of the lack of disclosure of all features as instantly claimed, the rejections in view of Hakuta ‘251 or Hakuta ‘407 are overcome. Further, the present invention is patentably distinct over each of Hakuta ‘315 and Hakuta ‘862 as discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and to withdraw these rejections and to allow the currently pending claims.

Conclusion

A full and complete response has been made to all issues as cited in the Office Action. Applicants have taken substantial steps in efforts to advance prosecution of the present application. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance issue for the present case.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

Application No. 10/500,161
Art Unit 1712
Reply to Office Action of January 13, 2006

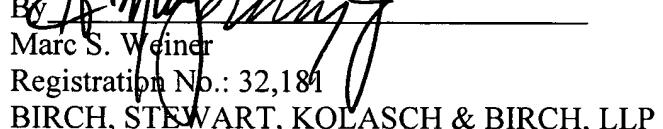
Docket No.: 1155-0279PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 13, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Abstract (clean copy)
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